

Statement Before
The General Law Committee
Tuesday
February 21, 2012

Re: HB 5056: An Act Concerning the Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Good Morning Senator Doyle, Representative Taborsak and members of the General Law Committee. My name is Margherita Giuliano. I am a pharmacist and the Executive Vice President of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association. The Connecticut Pharmacists Association is a professional organization representing 1000 pharmacists in the state of Connecticut. I am submitting written testimony in support of HB 5056: AAC the Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

This proposed legislation simply expands the current law which requires the reporting of Controlled Substances into the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMP) by pharmacies, outpatient pharmacies in hospitals or institutions. This legislation now extends the requirement to pharmacies that fill prescriptions outside of our state and then deliver or mail to Connecticut residents; and physicians that are dispensing controlled substances in their office as allowed by law in section 21a-240.

With the increased use/requirement of mail order prescription fulfillment, it is critical to mandate that the non-resident pharmacies report into the PMP to provide complete and accurate information for the physicians and pharmacists that access the database. Physicians that dispense controlled substances from their office should also be required to report into the PMP in order to ensure that a complete profile is provided.

The current system has worked well. Connecticut is one of the first states to link into a national database through the National Associations of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) PMP InterConnectTM, the system that facilitates the secure sharing of data between state's PMPs. This system allows authorized users the ability to request and share data across state line and is a critical piece for early detection, intervention, and prevention of substance abuse and diversion of controlled substances. Connecticut joins Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Virginia as early adapters.

This legislation also provides for the ability of the Department of Consumer Protection to identify and add products to be included into the PMP. With the program currently in place it is prudent to use it to its fullest capacity.